

others who agree with him, the other point of view, and I would close this note by suggesting that, until he and others like him have laid aside their guns and their rifles for ever, they should remember the old old saying about people who live in glass-houses.

NAINI-TAL, U.P.

August 10, 1932.

F. W. CHAMPION,

Indian Forest Service.

XVI.—THE PENDULINE TIT (*REMIZ CORONATUS*
SEVERTZOFF) IN THE PUNJAB.

To the occurrences of the Penduline Tit (*Remiz coronatus*) in the Punjab, recorded in our Journal by Mr. H. Whistler from Jhelum (vol. xxiii, p. 153) and Mr. A. E. Jones from Lahore (vol. xxxv, p. 202), I can now add one from the Shahpur District. I obtained 2 ♀♀ in trees bordering the Lower Jhelum Canal at Ghullapur on March 14, 1932.

DANDOTE,
JHELUM DISTRICT,
PUNJAB.

June 1, 1932.

H. W. WAITE,
Indian Police.

XVII.—NOTES ON SOME CEYLON BIRDS.

The Ceylonese Warbler, *Elaphrornis palliseri*, Blyth.

These rather odd little birds are common in the jungle on the slopes of the Great Western in Ceylon at about 4,500 feet and upwards and venture into the tea where it borders on the jungle. In habits they much resemble the smaller babblers. In the off season they go about in small parties keeping to dense undergrowth where they creep about among the stems like mice, obtaining much of their food off the ground, and continually flirting their long and much graduated tails. They are very silent, the only note that one normally hears being a low single explosive 'qtz' which is also their alarm note when the nest is approached. In the breeding season in March and April they have a feeble little song of a few scattered notes.

The nests are remarkably substantial affairs of moss and dead leaves with very thick walls and a deep cup beautifully lined, usually with skeleton leaves. The four I have found have been from two to five feet from the ground. One was in a tea bush and the others in the jungle in clumps of bamboo at the side of a game trail. There were two eggs in each case, somewhat reminiscent of small bulbuls' eggs, white in ground colour, heavily covered all over with small, dull purplish spots and occasionally there were one or two purple hair lines.

They are close sitters and when put off the nest do not go far but scuttle about under cover in the near neighbourhood. I put up a hide within three feet of one nest containing young and the parents soon overcame their alarm and came freely to the nest. Both male and female brought food but the latter, distinguished by her white iris, was much the shyer. The cock, who had fine ruby eyes, was very bold. It was difficult to distinguish what they brought but on several occasions it seemed to be a whitish grub and once a worm. Though they uttered their alarm note while I was putting up the hide, once they had overcome their suspicions they were completely silent.

Legge's Baza. *Baza jerdoni ceylonensis*.

A pair of these birds lived on the edge of the jungle bordering the Pundalnaya tea district within a mile of my bungalow and I used to see them almost every day for a year. I did not shoot either, as I should have done to make identification absolutely certain, as they were the only pair I knew of. I had plenty of opportunities, however, of observing them at close range as they were far from shy and I have no doubt that they really were Bazas. They were rather sluggish birds spending much of their time perched on trees, at the edge of the jungle or sometimes in the tea. For long periods they would soar round and round each other rising to a great height and uttering a peculiar mewling, 'kikiya kikiya'.

When changing ground the wings were flapped strongly with short intervals of gliding. In general shape and flight they much resembled small buzzards. In flight the crest was depressed but when settled the long feathers rose vertically from the occiput in a very characteristic manner. I never saw them catch any prey or even appear to be hunting. During August and September, one of the pair, the male presumably, used to perform some remarkable antics in the air which I can only presume were some form of nuptial display. He would be soaring normally, mewling loudly. Suddenly he would swoop downwards with half closed wings for thirty or forty feet uttering a loud, sharp 'kit, kit, kit' and then turn upwards vertically until the momentum of his swoop was expended and he appeared to be just about to fall over backwards, when he would right himself and go on soaring as before, only to repeat the performance in a few seconds. On September 26th I saw one of the birds sitting on a tree uttering this 'kit-kit' note and it suddenly flew across to another tree where its mate was perched and copulation took place to the accompaniment of loud cries. Although they haunted a definite small tract of jungle at this time I failed to find the nest though I saw them with a fully fledged young one in November. Soon after, when the leaves were thinner, I discovered a small stick nest forty feet up in a big tree standing by itself on the jungle edge in which I had often seen the bazas and I am almost certain that it was their nest.

The young one soon disappeared and the old pair in April became very noisy and seemed to show much interest in another

patch of jungle a few hundred yards away but the male never performed his nuptial 'aerobatics' and I would find no rest, but, on May 10th, I saw a party of five which appeared to consist of three young birds and two adults which looks as if they are possibly double brooded.

HALLERY,
MERCARA, COORG.
July 19, 1932.

F. N. BETTS.

XVIII.—THE STATUS OF THE INDIAN BLACK-HEADED
SHRIKE (*LANIUS NIGRICEPS*, FRANK.) IN LOWER
BENGAL.

*With observations on the plumage of specimens captured in
their breeding area.*

The status and distribution of the Indian Black-headed Shrike (*Lanius nigriceps*, Frank.) appears rather obscure, at least so far as the plains districts of India and specially Bengal are concerned. Mr. Stuart Baker has recorded in F.B.I. (Birds)—'In winter it is found all over the foot hills and also in the plains for some distance from them'. One will obviously infer from this record that it is a migratory species, which spreads itself in the plains during the cold weather months and retires in summer to the hills in great numbers to breed. The bird is not unknown in Bengal; 'common', according to Blyth, who states that it is 'common in the Soonderbuns of Bengal, and on many of the *Churrs* (or alluvial banks and islands) in the Ganges and its branches' (J.A.S.B., xv, 301). Jerdon records its distribution from the foot hills of the Himalayas through Purnea and Dinajpur to Calcutta and the Soonderbuns, extending eastwards into Assam and Arakan. Mr. P. W. Munn notes it as 'a rare winter visitor' so far as 'the Calcutta District' is concerned (Ibis, 1894, p. 45). Capt. Tytler mentions it as 'rather uncommon' in Barrackpore (Dist. 24-Pergs.), to be 'only met with at some little distance from the Cantonments' (A.M.N.H., xiii, 1854, 370). Four specimens were collected by Blyth from the vicinity of Calcutta (Cat. B. Mus. A.S.B., 151), but, as the dates are not recorded, nothing can be inferred as to the status of the species. Its occurrence in Furreedpore in Eastern Bengal was recorded by J. R. Cripps (S.F., vii, 269), who found the bird 'excessively common, and a permanent resident', breeding in the district. Ten nests with from one to five eggs in each were obtained by him during April to June, of which four were placed in bamboo clumps and the rest in *Babool* trees. A subsequent note by Cripps, however, appears to conflict with this observation as to the status of the species in this part of Bengal. He writes—'They begin to arrive in the Dibrugarh district in the last week in July, and the majority leave by the beginning of April, evidently for Bengal, where I found numbers breeding in the Furreedpore district' (S.F., xi, 91). Certainly the birds thus recorded as migrat-